

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 11:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 240—Veterans Employment Opportunities Act

H.R. 757—American Samoa Development Act



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider a rule to allow the following two bills to be considered under suspension of the rules. Upon passage of the rule, each bill is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 240—Veterans Employment Opportunities Act strengthens veterans' preference laws and increases employment opportunities for veterans. Specifically, the bill (1) stipulates that veterans who are preference eligible or veterans who have served under honorable conditions for at least three years cannot be denied the opportunity to compete for government jobs; (2) requires agencies to establish priority placement programs for preference eligible employees affected by a reduction in force (RIF), and apply veterans' preference when rehiring from the list; (3) establishes an effective redress system for veterans who believe their rights have been violated and makes knowing violations of veterans' preference laws a prohibited personnel practice; (4) extends the veterans' preference to certain positions in the judicial branch and to non-political jobs at the White House and in the legislative branch; (5) requires the Federal Aviation Administration to apply veterans' preference in RIFs; and (6) extends veterans' preference eligibility for veterans who served in Bosnia, Croatia, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 240 will increase the personnel and management costs of the federal government; however, CBO is unable to estimate the amount of the added cost. The bill was introduced by Mr. Mica and reported by voice vote by the Government Reform & Oversight Committee.

H.R. 757—American Samoa Development Act establishes a six-member commission to make recommendations to the president and Congress on policies necessary to provide a secure local economy in American Samoa. The purpose of the commission is to formulate timely and effective

fiscal, trade, and economic policy recommendations that will improve American Samoa's economic self-sufficiency. The commission must submit their report no later than June 30, 1999. The bill authorizes \$300,000 annually for fiscal years 1998 and 1999 to fund the work of the commission. CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 757 will cost the federal government \$600,000 over fiscal years 1998 and 1999, assuming that the amounts authorized by the bill are appropriated. H.R. 757 was introduced by Mr. Faleomavaega and ordered reported by the Resources Committee by voice vote.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #8, April 4, 1997.



Brian Fortune: *Editor*

S. Kevin Washington:
Senior Legislative Analyst

Becci Clark, Melissa Decker,
Jimmy Papadimitriu, Kevin Smith:
Legislative Analysts

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